

MEMORIAL DAY

29 MAY 2006



For the almost four million people who visit annually, Arlington National Cemetery represents many different things. For some, it is a chance to walk among headstones that chronicle American history; for many, it is an opportunity to remember and honor the nation's war heroes; and for others, it is a place to say last farewell during funeral services for a family member or friend.



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Prayer for Peace, Memorial Day, 2006
A Proclamation by the President of the United States of America

Throughout our history, the men and women who have worn the uniform of the United States have placed the security of our Nation before their own safety. America will be forever grateful for their service and sacrifice. On Memorial Day, we honor those who have paid the ultimate price for our freedom.

Defending the ideals of our Nation has required the service and sacrifice of those from every generation. From Valley Forge, across Europe and Asia, and in Afghanistan and Iraq, courageous Americans have given their lives so that others could live in freedom. These Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen took an oath to defend America, and they upheld that oath with bravery and decency. They have liberated the oppressed, spread freedom and peace, and set a standard of courage and compassion for our Nation. All who enjoy the blessings of liberty live in their debt.

This debt of gratitude extends also to the families who stood by our servicemen and women in times of war and times of peace. Each of the fallen has left behind loved ones who carry a burden of grief, and all Americans are inspired by the strength of these families.

At this important time in the history of freedom, a new generation of Americans is defending our flag and our liberty. These men and women carry on the legacy of our Nation's fallen heroes and demonstrate that the United States Armed Forces remain the greatest force for freedom in human history.

Those who lost their lives in the defense of freedom helped protect our citizens and lay the foundation of peace for people everywhere. On Memorial Day, a grateful Nation pays tribute to their personal courage, love of country, and dedication to duty.

In respect for their devotion to America, the Congress, by a joint resolution approved on May 11, 1950, as amended (64 Stat. 158), has requested the President to issue a proclamation calling on the people of the United States to observe each Memorial Day as a day of prayer for permanent peace and designating a period on that day when the people of the United States might unite in prayer. The Congress, by Public Law 106-579, has also designated the minute beginning at 3:00 p.m. local time on that day as a time for all Americans to observe the National Moment of Remembrance.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim Memorial Day, May 29, 2006, as a day of prayer for permanent peace, and I designate the hour beginning in each locality at 11:00 a.m. of that day as a time to unite in prayer.

I also ask all Americans to observe the National Moment of Remembrance beginning at 3 p.m., local time, on Memorial Day. I encourage the media to participate in these observances. I also request the Governors of the United States and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the appropriate officials of all units of government, to direct that the flag be flown at half staff until noon on this Memorial Day on all buildings, grounds, and naval vessels throughout the United States, and in all areas under its jurisdiction and control. I also request the people of the United States to display the flag at half staff from their homes for the customary forenoon period.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this sixteenth day of May, in the year of our Lord two thousand six, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirtieth.

GEORGE W. BUSH

#

Memorial Day

Those who have died in service to the United States are honored on last Monday in May



Veterans salute during the retiring of colors during Memorial Day ceremonies at the Arlington National Cemetery. (© AP/WWP)

Three years after the Civil War ended, on May 5, 1868, the head of an organization of Union veterans — the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) — established Decoration Day as a time for the nation to decorate the graves of the war dead with flowers. Maj. Gen. John A. Logan declared that Decoration Day should be observed on May 30. It is believed that date was chosen because flowers would be in bloom all over the country.

The first large observance was held that year at Arlington National Cemetery, across the Potomac River from Washington, D.C.

The ceremonies centered on the mourning-draped veranda of the Arlington mansion, once the home of Gen. Robert E. Lee. Various Washington officials, including Gen. and Mrs. Ulysses S. Grant, presided over the ceremonies. After speeches, children from the Soldiers' and Sailors' Orphan Home and members of the GAR made their way through

the cemetery, strewing flowers on both Union and Confederate graves, reciting prayers and singing hymns.

Local springtime tributes to the Civil War dead already had been held in various places. One of the first occurred in Columbus, Miss., April 25, 1866, when a group of women visited a cemetery to decorate the graves of Confederate soldiers who had fallen in battle at Shiloh. Nearby were the graves of Union soldiers, neglected because they were the enemy. Disturbed at the sight of the bare graves, the women placed some of their flowers on those graves, as well. Approximately 25 places have been named in connection with the origin of Memorial Day, many of them in the South where most of the war dead were buried.

In 1966, Congress and President Lyndon Johnson declared Waterloo, N.Y., the "birthplace" of Memorial Day. There, a ceremony on May 5, 1866, honored local veterans who had fought in the Civil War. Businesses closed and residents flew flags at half-staff. Supporters of Waterloo's claim say earlier observances in other places were either informal, not community-wide or one-time events.

By the end of the 19th century, Memorial Day ceremonies were being held on May 30 throughout the nation. State legislatures passed proclamations designating the day, and the Army and Navy adopted regulations for proper observance at their facilities.

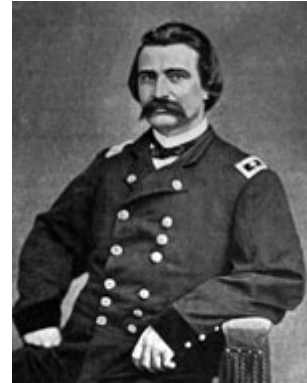
It was not until after World War I, however, that the day was expanded to honor those who have died in all American wars. In 1971, Memorial Day was declared a national holiday by an act of Congress, though it is still often called Decoration Day. It was then also placed on the last Monday in May, as were some other federal holidays.

The crowd attending the first Memorial Day ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery was approximately the same size as those that attend today's observance, about 5,000 people. Then, as now, small American flags were placed on each grave — a tradition followed at many national cemeteries today. In recent years, the custom has grown in many families to decorate the graves of all departed loved ones.

To ensure the sacrifices of America's fallen heroes are never forgotten, in December 2000, the U.S. Congress passed and the president signed into law "The National Moment of Remembrance Act," P.L. 106-579, creating the White House Commission on the National Moment of Remembrance. The commission's charter is to "encourage the people of the United States to give something back to their country, which provides them so much freedom and opportunity" by encouraging and coordinating commemorations in the United States of Memorial Day and the National Moment of Remembrance. The National Moment of Remembrance encourages all Americans to pause wherever they are at 3 p.m. local time on Memorial Day for a minute of silence to remember and honor those who have died in service to the nation.

Adapted from Department of Veterans Affairs materials

http://usinfo.state.gov/scv/life_and_culture/holidays/memorial_day.html



Union Army Major General John A. Logan, known as the "Father of Memorial Day," poses in an undated 19th century photo. (© AP/WWP)



Flying the American Flag at Half Staff

When should the flag be flown at half-staff?



An easy way to remember when to fly the United States flag at half-staff is to consider when the whole nation is in mourning. These periods of mourning are proclaimed either by the president of the United States, for national remembrance, or the governor of a state or territory, for local remembrance, in the event of a death of a member or former member of the federal, state or territorial government or judiciary. The heads of departments and agencies of the federal government may also order that the flag be flown at half-staff on buildings, grounds and naval vessels under their jurisdiction.

On Memorial Day the flag should be flown at half-staff from sunrise until noon only, then raised briskly to the top of the staff until sunset, in honor of the nation's battle heroes.

In the early days of our country, no regulations existed for flying the flag at half-staff and, as a result, there were many conflicting policies. But on March 1, 1954, President Dwight Eisenhower issued a proclamation on the proper times.

The flag should fly at half-staff for 30 days at all federal buildings, grounds, and naval vessels throughout the United States and its territories and possessions after the death of the president or a former president. It is to fly 10 days at half-staff after the death of the vice president, the chief justice or a retired chief justice of the United States Supreme Court, or the speaker of the House of Representatives. For an associate justice of the Supreme Court, a member of the Cabinet, a former vice president, the president pro tempore of the Senate, the majority leader of the Senate, the minority leader of the Senate, the majority leader of the House of Representatives, or the minority leader of the House of Representatives the flag is to be displayed at half-staff from the day of death until interment.

The flag is to be flown at half-staff at all federal buildings, grounds and naval vessels in the Washington, D.C., area on the day and day after the death of a United States senator, representative, territorial delegate, or the resident commissioner from the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. It should also be flown at half-staff on all federal facilities in the state, congressional district, territory, or commonwealth of these officials.

Upon the death of the governor of a state, territory or possession, the flag should be flown at half-staff on all federal facilities in that governor's state, territory or possession from the day of death until interment.

The president may order the flag to be flown at half-staff to mark the death of other officials, former officials, or foreign dignitaries. In addition to these occasions, the president may order half-staff display of the flag after other tragic events.

The flag should be briskly run up to the top of the staff before being lowered slowly to the half-staff position.

Source : <http://www1.va.gov/opa/feature/celebrate/halfstaf.asp>

TAPS

Taps is the most beautiful bugle call. Played slowly and softly, it has a smooth, tender, and touching character. The bugle call was written during the Peninsula Campaign of the Civil War by General Daniel Butterfield, with an assist from his bugler, Oliver W. Norton, in 1862.

"Fading light dims the sight,
And a star gems the sky, gleaming bright.
From afar drawing nigh -- Falls the night.

"Day is done, gone the sun,
From the lake, from the hills, from the sky.
All is well, safely rest, God is nigh.

"Then good night, peaceful night,
Till the light of the dawn shineth bright,
God is near, do not fear -- Friend, good night."



*The Old Guard Escorts A Soldier To His
Final Resting Place, Arlington National Cemetery*

" They say, we leave you our deaths. Give them their meaning. Give them an end to the war and a true peace. Give them a victory that ends the war and peace afterwards. Give them their meaning. We were young, they say. We have died. Remember us." —Archibald MacLe

The Origin of Taps

Of all the military bugle calls, none is so easily recognized or more apt to render emotion than Taps. Up to the Civil War, the traditional call at day's end was a tune borrowed from the French called Lights Out. In July of 1862, in the aftermath of the bloody Seven Days battles, hard on the loss of 600 men and wounded himself, Union General Daniel Adams Butterfield called the brigade bugler to his tent. He thought "Lights Out" was too formal and he wished to honor his men. Oliver Wilcox Norton, the bugler, tells the story, "...showing me some notes on a staff written in pencil on the back of an envelope, [he] asked me to sound them on my bugle. I did this several times, playing the music as written. He changed it somewhat, lengthening some notes and shortening others, but retaining the melody as he first gave it to me. After getting it to his satisfaction, he directed me to sound that call for Taps thereafter in place of the regulation call. The music was beautiful on that still summer night and was heard far beyond the limits of our Brigade. The next day, I was visited by several buglers from neighboring Brigades, asking for copies of the music, which I gladly furnished. The call was gradually taken up through the Army of the Potomac."

More emotive and powerful, Taps was soon adopted throughout the military. In 1874, it was officially recognized by the U.S. Army. It became mandatory at military funeral ceremonies in 1891. There is something singularly beautiful and appropriate in the music of this wonderful call. Its strains are melancholy, yet full of rest and peace. Its echoes linger in the heart long after its tones have ceased to vibrate in the air.

—from an article by MSG Jari A. Villanueva, USAF (<http://remember.gov/moment/taps.cfm>)



[Taps](#) (AU Format)

[Taps with Introduction](#)
(AU Format)

[Taps without Introduction](#)
(AU Format)

[Taps with 30 Second Drum Roll](#)
(AU Format)

[Taps Score](#)
(PDF Format)

Memorial Day

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Memorial_Day



Relatives and others traditionally place flags near veterans' headstones on Memorial Day

Memorial Day is a [United States federal holiday](#) that takes place on [May 30](#) and is observed on the last Monday of May. It was formerly known as **Decoration Day**. This holiday commemorates U.S. men and women who died in [military](#) service for their country. It began first to honor Union soldiers who died during the [American Civil War](#). After [World War I](#), it expanded to include those who died in any war or military action. Today, some Americans

apparently use Memorial Day weekend to also honor family members who have died. Church services on the Sunday prior to Memorial Day may include a reading of the names of members who have died during the previous 12 months.

Many people observe this holiday by visiting [cemeteries](#) and [memorials](#). A [National Moment of Remembrance](#) takes place at 3 PM. Another tradition is to fly the [U.S. Flag](#) at [half-staff](#) from dawn until noon local time. In addition to remembrance, Memorial Day is also a time for [picnics](#), family gatherings, and [sporting](#) events. One of the longest standing traditions is the running of the [Indianapolis 500](#), which has been held in conjunction with Memorial Day since 1911.

Memorial Day traditionally occurs on [May 30](#), and some, such as the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) and Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW), advocate returning to this fixed date. The VFW stated in a 2002 Memorial Day Address, "Changing the date merely to create three-day weekends has undermined the very meaning of the day. No doubt, this has contributed greatly to the general public's nonchalant observance of Memorial Day." Hawaii's Senator [Daniel Inouye](#), a veteran of World War II, has repeatedly introduced measures to return Memorial Day to its traditional day since 1999. However, at least some Americans enjoy the guaranteed three-day weekend that comes with observing the holiday on a Monday. Americans popularly view Memorial Day as the unofficial beginning of summer, while they view [Labor Day](#) as the unofficial end of the season.

History

Following the end of the [Civil War](#), many communities set aside a day to mark the end of the war or as a memorial to those who had died. Some of the early cities creating a memorial day include [Charleston, South Carolina](#); [Boalsburg, Pennsylvania](#); [Richmond, Virginia](#); and some two dozen other cities and towns. These observances eventually coalesced around Decoration Day honoring the Union dead and the several Confederate Memorial Days.

Professor David Blight, of the Yale University History Department, has suggested that the first memorial day was in fact held by liberated slaves at the historic race track in Charleston in 1865. The race track, which was used as a Confederate prison during the war, was the site of a mass grave for Union soldiers who had died while captives. A parade with thousands of freed blacks and Union soldiers was followed by patriotic singing and a picnic.

The official birthplace of Memorial Day is [Waterloo, New York](#). The village was credited with being the birthplace because it observed the day on [May 5, 1866](#), and each year thereafter, and because it's likely that the friendship of General John Murray, a distinguished citizen of Waterloo, and General [John A. Logan](#), who led the call for the day to be observed each year and helped spread the event nationwide, was a key factor in its growth.

Logan had been the principal speaker in a citywide memorial observation on [April 29, 1866](#), at a cemetery in [Carbondale, Illinois](#), an event that likely gave him the idea to make it a national holiday. On [May 5, 1868](#), in his capacity as commander-in-chief of the [Grand Army of the Republic](#), a veterans' organization, Logan issued a

proclamation that "Decoration Day" be observed nationwide. It was observed for the first time on [May 30](#) of the same year. The [tombs](#) of fallen Union soldiers were decorated in remembrance of this day.

Many of the states of the [U.S. South](#) refused to celebrate Decoration Day due to lingering hostility towards the [Union Army](#), which it was commemorating. Many Southern States did not recognize Memorial Day until after [World War I](#), and even after continued to have a separate [Confederate Memorial Day](#), with the date varying from state to state.

The alternative name of "Memorial Day" was first used in 1882, but did not become more common until after [World War II](#), and was not declared the official name by Federal law until 1967.

On [June 28, 1968](#), the [United States Congress](#) passed the [Uniform Holidays Bill](#), which moved four holidays from their traditional dates to a specified Monday in order to create a convenient three-day weekend. The holidays included [Washington's](#) Birthday (which evolved into [Presidents' Day](#)), Memorial Day, [Columbus Day](#), and [Veterans Day](#); ironically most corporate businesses no longer close on Columbus or Veterans Day and an increasing number are staying open on Presidents Day as well. The law took effect in 1971 at the federal level. After some initial confusion and unwillingness to comply at the state level, all fifty states adopted the measure within a few years. Veterans Day was eventually changed back to its traditional date. The change moved Memorial Day from its traditional [May 30](#) date to the last Monday in May.

Unsurprisingly, given its origin in the [American Civil War](#), Memorial Day is not a holiday outside the US. Because of its origins from World War I, countries of the [Commonwealth](#), [France](#), and [Belgium](#), remember members of the military who died in war on or around [Remembrance Day](#), [November 11](#). The United States uses the same date as [Veterans Day](#) (formerly [Armistice Day](#)) and honors all veterans, living and dead. In Ireland, [National Day of Commemoration](#) commemorates all Irish men and women who died in past wars or on service with the [United Nations](#).

In literature and music

The Southeastern United States celebrates Decoration Day as a day to decorate the graves of all family members, and it is not reserved for only those who served in the military. The region observes Decoration Day the Sunday before Memorial Day. Jason Isbell of the rock-folk band [Drive-By Truckers](#) chronicled such an event in his epic ballad "Decoration Day," which is also the title cut to the respective album.

The White House Commission on Remembrance has free songs at its Web site entitled the [National Moment of Remembrance Home Page](#). Anyone can download different renditions of the song "On This Day" by Charles Strouse, likewise "Taps." Many others have contributed works for Memorial Day, including other famous songs and poems.



American Revolution (1775-1783)

Total U.S. Servicemembers	217,000
Battle Deaths	4,435
Non-mortal Woundings	6,188

War of 1812 (1812-1815)

Total U.S. Servicemembers	286,730
Battle Deaths	2,260
Non-mortal Woundings	4,505

Indian Wars (approx. 1817-1898)

Total U.S. Servicemembers (VA estimate)	106,000
Battle Deaths (VA estimate)	1,000

Mexican War (1846-1848)

Total U.S. Servicemembers	78,718
Battle Deaths	1,733
Other Deaths in Service	11,550
Non-mortal Woundings	4,152

Civil War (1861-1865)

Total U.S. Servicemembers (Union)	2,213,363
Battle Deaths (Union)	140,414
Other Deaths in Service (Union)	224,097
Non-mortal Woundings (Union)	281,881
Total Servicemembers (Conf.)	1,050,000
Battle Deaths (Confederate)	74,524
Other Deaths in Service (Confederate) ¹	59,297
Non-mortal Woundings (Confederate)	Unknown

Spanish-American War (1898-1902)

Total U.S. Servicemembers (Worldwide)	306,760
Battle Deaths	385
Other Deaths in Service (Non-Theater)	2,061
Non-mortal Woundings	1,662

World War I (1917-1918)

Total U.S. Servicemembers (Worldwide)	4,734,991
Battle Deaths	53,402
Other Deaths in Service (Non-Theater)	63,114
Non-mortal Woundings	204,002
Living Veterans	Less than 50

World War II (1941 -1945)

Total U.S. Servicemembers (Worldwide)	16,112,566
Battle Deaths	291,557
Other Deaths in Service (Non-Theater)	113,842
Non-mortal Woundings	671,846
Living Veterans	3,525,769

Korean War (1950-1953)

Total U.S. Servicemembers (Worldwide)	5,720,000
Battle Deaths	33,741
Other Deaths (In Theater)	2,833
Other Deaths in Service (Non-Theater)	17,672
Non-mortal Woundings	103,284
Living Veterans	3,256,925

Vietnam War (1964-1975)

Total U.S. Servicemembers (Worldwide)	8,744,000
Deployed to Southeast Asia	3,403,000
Battle Deaths	47,424
Other Deaths (In Theater)	10,785
Other Deaths in Service (Non-Theater)	32,000
Non-mortal Woundings	153,303
Living Veterans	8,054,993

Desert Shield/Desert Storm (1990-1991)

Total U.S. Servicemembers (Worldwide)	2,322,332
Deployed to Gulf	694,550
Battle Deaths	147
Other Deaths (In Theater)	235
Other Deaths in Service (Non-Theater)	1,590
Non-mortal Woundings	467
Living Veterans	2,015,235

War on Terrorism (2001 – Present)

Total U.S. Servicemembers (Worldwide)	1,390,765
Deployed to Iraq & Afghanistan	185,329
Battle Deaths	1,674
Other Deaths (In Theater)	563
Non-mortal Woundings	15,991
Living Veterans ²	433,398

America's Wars Total

U.S. Military Service During Wartime	43,185,893
Battle Deaths	652,696
Other Deaths (In Theater)	14,416
Other Deaths in Service (Non-Theater)	525,223
Non-mortal Woundings	1,447,281
Living War Veterans	18,155,573
Living Veterans (Periods of War & Peace)	24,387,036

1. Does not include 26,000 to 31,000 who died in Union prisons.

2. VA estimate may include veterans who served both in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Source: Department of Defense (DoD), except living veterans, which are VA estimates. Estimates are as of September 30, 2005.

American Revolution Last Veteran, Daniel F. Bakeman, died 4/5/1869, age 109 Last Widow, Catherine S. Damon, died 11/11/06, age 92 Last Dependent, Phoebe M. Palmeter, died 4/25/11, age 90	Mexican War Last Veteran, Owen Thomas Edgar, died 9/3/29, age 98 Last Widow, Lena James Theobald, died 6/20/63, age 89 Last Dependent, Jesse G. Bivens, died 11/1/62, age 94
War of 1812 Last Veteran, Hiram Cronk, died 5/13/05, age 105 Last Widow, Carolina King, died 6/28/36, age unknown Last Dependent, Esther A.H. Morgan, died 3/12/46, age 89	Civil War Last Union Veteran, Albert Woolson, died 8/2/56, age 109 Last Confederate Veteran, John Salling, died 3/16/58, age 112 Last Union Widow, Gertrude Janeway, died 1/17/2003, age 93
Indian Wars Last Veteran, Fredrak Fraske, died 6/18/73, age 101	Spanish-American War Last veteran, Nathan E. Cook, died 9/10/92, age 106

VA estimates the number of living World War II U.S. veterans will be:

9/30/05 3,607,000	9/30/06.....3,242,000	9/30/07 2,889,000	9/30/08	2,551,000
9/30/09 2,230,000	9/30/10.....1,929,000	9/30/11 1,649,000	9/30/12	1,393,000
9/30/13 1,161,000	9/30/14.....954,000	9/30/15 773,000	9/30/16	616,000
9/30/17 484,000	9/30/18.....373,000	9/30/19 283,000	9/30/20	210,000

U.S. Veterans and Dependents on Benefits Rolls as of September 2005

	VETERANS	CHILDREN	PARENTS	SURVIVING SPOUSES
Civil War	-	3	-	-
Indian Wars	-	-	-	-
Spanish-American War	-	135	-	163
Mexican Border	1	20		81
World War I	8	4,140	-	9,388
World War II	466,118	16,207	311	240,054
Korean Conflict	230,978	3,500	523	61,856
Vietnam Era	1,067,674	10,475	3,991	144,982
Gulf War ¹	616,663	11,772	704	11,417
Nonservice-connected	335,787	21,466	-	191,540
Service-connected	2,636,979	28,711	7,029	309,744

¹ For compensation and pension purposes, the Gulf War period has not yet been terminated.

INTERNET RESOURCES

- [Facts about U.S. Military Who Served in WWII](http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/facts_for_features_special_editions/001747.html)
[http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/facts_for_features_special_editions/001747.html]
The Census Bureau provides facts and features to pay tribute to Americans who served in WWII.
- [Korean War Veterans Memorial](http://www.nps.gov/kwvm/)
[http://www.nps.gov/kwvm/]
Located in Washington, DC, this memorial honors those who served in the Korean War between 1950 and 1953.
- [National Moment of Remembrance, 3:00 PM](http://www.remember.gov/)
[http://www.remember.gov/]
Join other Americans in a minute of silence at 3:00 PM, local time. If you are driving, turn on your lights.
- [Origins of Memorial Day](http://www1.va.gov/opa/speceven/memday/index.asp)
[http://www1.va.gov/opa/speceven/memday/index.asp]
The Department of Veterans Affairs takes us back to the 1860's when it all began.
- [Patriotic Melodies](http://lcweb2.loc.gov/cocoon/ahas/html/patriotic/patriotic-home.html)
[http://lcweb2.loc.gov/cocoon/ahas/html/patriotic/patriotic-home.html]
Words, sheet music, and sound recordings for songs from "America the Beautiful" to "You're a Grand Old Flag."
- [Soldier's Memorial Day](http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/today/may30.html)
[http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/today/may30.html]
More history from the Library of Congress.
- [Veterans Stories](http://www.loc.gov/vets/stories/)
[http://www.loc.gov/vets/stories/]
Experience war stories from the Veterans History Project.
- [Vietnam Veterans Memorial](http://www.nps.gov/vive/pphtml/planyourvisit.html)
[http://www.nps.gov/vive/pphtml/planyourvisit.html]
Learn about the memorial in Washington, DC honoring those who served in the Vietnam War.
- [World War II Memorial](http://www.wwiimemorial.com/)
[http://www.wwiimemorial.com/]
The World War II Memorial, completed in 2004 in Washington, DC, honors the 16 million who served and the more than 400,000 who died.